

# REMARKS

The claims are claims 1 to 27.

Claims 28 to 47 are canceled.

Claims 1 to 47 are subject to restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 as follows:

I. Claims 1-27, drawn to a distributed number assignment based on counted pulses, classified in class 370, subclasses 254, 343 and 498; and

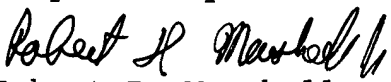
II. Claims 28-47, drawn to assigning a variable number of time slots, classified in class 370, subclasses 431 and 468.

The Applicants elect Group I, claims 1 to 27 without traverse. Non-elected claims 28 to 47 are canceled.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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